

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00701 201227 Z

14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 AID-20 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

PRS-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 INRE-00 /092 W
----- 099177

P 201155 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9262

UNCLAS COLOMBO 701

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ECON, CE

SUBJ: REPORTED DROUGHT IN SRI LANKA

REF STATE 48458

1. SRI LANKA HAS EXPERIENCED DROUGHT SITUATION SINCE OCT 71, AS REFLECTED IN TRENDS REPORTS AND OTHER ANALYSES SUBMITTED DURING THIS PERIOD. LAST FALL DROUGHT CONDITIONS WERE RELIEVED BY HEAVY RAINS IN NORTH AND CENTRAL PORTIONS OF SRI LANKA. DROUGHT CONDITION IN HEAVILY POPULATED SOUTHWEST AREA HAS INTENSIFIED. HEAVY RAINS IN NORTH CENTRAL PARTS IN OCTOBER HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY FOUR MONTHS OF RAINFALL WELL BELOW NORMAL LEVELS IN ALL AREAS.

2. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION:

RICE:

AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, 1972 CROPS YALA AND MAHA DEFICIENT AVERAGE 30 PERCENT THOUGH PART OF DEFICIENCY DUE TO HEAVY AUTUMN RAINS INTERRUPTING PROCESSING AFTER HARVESTING. MIN OF AGRICULTURE STATES 1973 MAHA CROP 30 PERCENT BELOW FORECAST LEVELS AND EQUAL TO COMPARABLE CROP LAST YEAR. YALA CROP WILL BE SERIOUSLY THREATENED IF APRIL- MAY RAINS PROVE BELOW NORMAL. SOUTHWEST MONSOON MUCH LESS DEPENDABLE THAN NORTHEAST MONSOON SO DANGER CONSIDERABLE. SITUATION APPEARS WORST IN PADDY AREAS IN SOUTH-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 COLOMB 00701 201227 Z

WESTERN, EASTERN AND NORTHERN AREAS: NORTH CENTRAL WATER TANKS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY BECAUSE OF HEAVY AUTUMN RUN- OFF AND LOWER THAN ANTICIPATED DEMAND.

COCONUT:

CURRENT CROPS BETWEEN 20 PERCENT AND 50 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL. OBSERVERS BLAME THIS ON RAINFALL DEFICIENCY BUT ALSO POOR MANAGEMENT CONNECTED WITH RECENT LAND LEGISLATION AND WIDE-SPREAD ANTICIPATION OF ALL IN PRICES.

RUBBER:

CURRENT PRODUCTION FORECASTS STILL RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC BUT MINAG CONCEDES MUCH DEPENDS ON RAINFALL LEVELS IN NEXT THREE MONTHS.

TEA:

SLIGHT EFFECT LAST YEAR; PRODUCERS REPORTED NOT SERIOUSLY ALARMED ABOUT EFFECT OF RAINFALL DEFICIENCY ON CURRENT PRODUCTION, ASSUMING NORMAL RAINFALL IN NEXT THREE MONTHS.

GARDEN CROPS :

SPOTTY SEVERE DEFECT, ESPECIALLY SOUTH AND WEST. HEAVY AUTUMN RAINS NORTH AND CENTRAL PRODUCTIONS ADEQUATE UNTIL NOW.

3. COMMENT: FBIS ITEM REPORTED REFTEL OVERSTATES GRAVITY OF SITUATION. COLOMBO AREA HARD HIT, WITH WATER RATIONING POSSIBLE IN NEXT FEW WEEKS AND RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF ELECTRIC POWER ALREADY RECOMMENDED. HOWEVER, TEA PLANTERS AND GARDEN CROP CULTIVATORS IN KANDY AND OBSERVERS OF PADDY CONDITIONS ANURADHAPUR AREA DENY EXISTENCE OF CRISIS CONDITIONS. EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF DROUGHT SITUATION SUPPORTED IN GENERAL BY BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION'S CURRENT ANALYSIS.
VAN HOLLEN

UNCLASSIFIED

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COLOMB00701
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730334/aaaaicnb.tel
Line Count: 105
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Oct-2001 by hagers>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2002 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971217
Subject: REPORTED DROUGHT IN SRI LANKA REF STATE 48458
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, CE
To: NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005